



S. C. Commission on Higher Education January 9, 2003 Meeting Highlights

Please note the following information is intended to be a brief summary of Commission actions and should not be considered as any form of minutes for the referenced meeting.

Dr Rayburn Barton Announces move to USC-Beaufort

At today's Commission meeting, Dr. Rayburn Barton announced his plans to step down as the Executive Director of the State's Commission on Higher Education. Dr. Barton will assume the position of Executive Vice-Chancellor for Academic Affairs of the USC-Beaufort campus, which was recently granted four-year status. His primary responsibilities will include the development of additional academic programs as the institution makes the transition from two-year status to a comprehensive four-year institution. Dr. Barton came to the Commission during the summer of 1997 and has enjoyed a successful five-year tenure after holding a similar position in the state of Idaho.

Mr. John E. Smalls, Director of the Finance, Facilities, and MIS Division, will serve as the Interim Executive Director. Mr. Smalls has been with the Commission staff for 18 years. Within the next several months, the Commission will begin the process of developing a search and selection process to fill the position.

Commission Elects Vice-Chair

Ms. Dianne Chinnes was re-elected as Vice-Chair of the Commission and will serve her third term in this office. Ms. Chinnes, CEO of Junior Achievement of Central South Carolina and CEO of the South Carolina Business Hall of Fame, has served on the Commission on Higher Education since July, 1996.

Commission Announces Upcoming Conferences

The 2003 Annual Campus Safety Conference will take place February 28th and 29th on the campus of Presbyterian College. This year's conference will focus on terrorism. This will be the Commission's third Safety Conference and promises to be as successful as the first two.

Also announced was the upcoming conference on Access & Equity. This conference is hosted by the Professional Association of Access and Equity Officers, and will take place March 26th through the 28th at the Sheraton Hotel in Columbia.

For further information on these conferences, please contact Dr. Karen Woodfaulk in the Commission offices.

Commission Awards Technology Grants

The Commission will consider recommendations from an expert panel that reviewed proposals from four-year institutions for the improvement of technology on campus. The grant program is funded with approximately \$10 million in lottery proceeds designated by the General Assembly for the competitive grant process. After a final decision by the Commission, the selected proposals will receive funding as funds are available, beginning in the spring of this year.

#	Institution	Project	Amount
1.	Coastal Carolina	Enhancing Interactivity in Teaching and Learning Beyond the Classroom	\$797,100
2.	South Carolina State	Expanding the Use of Technology in Teaching and Management	\$1,066,300
3.	The Citadel	Expanding Multimedia Resources to Improve Teaching and Learning at the Citadel	\$498,500
4.	The Citadel	Integrated Library Management System	\$150,000
5.	USC-Beaufort	Network Infrastructure to Support Increased Technology Use	\$623,700
6.	USC-Aiken	Ubiquitous Campus Computing	\$798,000
7.	Lander	Enhancing Student Learning via Technology Improvements at Lander University	\$550,000
8.	USC-Spartanburg	Campus Networked Computing Infrastructure Upgrades	\$1,183,000
9.	College of Charleston	Building Learning Communities	\$998,000
10.	Winthrop	Technology Replacement/Upgrade	\$854,400
11.	Francis Marion	Enhancement of University-Wide Teaching and Learning Through Discipline-Specific Technology Enhancements	\$799,600
12.	Coastal Carolina	Reaching Students Through Distance Learning	\$730,400

Commission Approves Capital Projects

The Commission approved various capital projects and one lease at several institutions through the Interim Capital Project Approval Process. These projects represent a combination of new projects and modifications to existing projects. Provided below is a summary of projects approved:

<u>Institution</u>	<u>Project</u>	<u>Amount</u>
Clemson University	Adv. Materials Res. Lab. Constr.	-increase \$ 1,151,218
MUSC	Indoor Air Quality Improvements	-establish \$ 3,000,000
	Basic Sci. Bldg. Infrastruct. Renov.	-increase 2,700,000
USC-Columbia	Basketball Arena Construction	-increase \$ 1,200,000
	Campus Food Service Facilities	-increase 1,644,904
Aiken TC	700 Building Renovation	-increase \$ 2,125,000
Denmark TC	Land and Bldg. Acquisition	-establish \$ 300,000
Tri-County TC	Paving/Surfacing/Landscaping	-incr./revise \$950,000

Lease

MUSC	Rutledge Tower Annex	-renewal \$ 10,560/yr
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Commission Approves Exceptional Capital Project Scores

As a part of the annual budget request process, higher education institutions have prepared capital project requests for consideration by the General Assembly. Each year, the Commission rates those projects on a set of established criteria in an effort to provide the members of the General Assembly with an objective evaluation of all projects using uniform guidelines. The Commission approved the ratings for the projects being submitted for the 2003 Legislative session at this meeting. For a complete listing of all projects and respective ratings, please contact Lynn Metcalf at the Commission offices.

Commission Discusses Need for Grade Inflation Study

Given the expansion of the Palmetto Fellows Scholarship, Legislative Incentives for Future Excellence (LIFE) Scholarship program and the implementation of the South Carolina HOPE Scholarship program during the past year, the possibility of grade inflation at the undergraduate level has been a topic of discussion in South Carolina. In addition, the S. C. Code of Laws (Title 59, Section 59-149-10) states that the Commission “must ensure accountability for the [LIFE] Scholarship by monitoring the distribution of grades at the institutions which receive these scholarship funds.” The Commission began the conversation relating to the need for such a study. The Commission identified a listing of issues for consideration in the development of a study, and determined that conducting a study of this nature would require special funding from the General Assembly. The

Commission charged the staff with pursuing the issue and potential for funding with the General Assembly.

Commission Receives Report on GEAR-UP Program

Ms. JoEllen Cook, the Principle Investigator for the GEAR-UP(Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs) program, provided Commission members with an overview of the major components of the program and a description of the program's operations. The GEAR-UP Program is a federally funded grant that provides for the Commission to work with middle and high schools across the state to create an increased awareness of the benefits and requirements of college. In particular, the program works closely with middle school students to encourage them to prepare for college and provides information on financial assistance opportunities. The program also utilizes CD technology to raise interest and provide information to students. For an overview of the GEAR-UP program, visit the Commission's GEAR-UP website at:

<http://www.che400.state.sc.us/web/Student/GEARUP/gearupintro.html>

For a demonstration of the CD's used in the program:

<http://www.che400.state.sc.us/StudentServices/GearUp/AimCollege.htm>